I.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12, and add new claim 13 as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A community providing server providing a virtual community for one or more website-accessing users having one or morea first user who has a user terminalsterminal connected to the community providing server via a network, the community providing server comprising:

a user management information database for storing information concerning a website-providing user, wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-accessing usersregistered users who hasare registered with the virtual community, andwherein the stored information includes a virtual community address indicating a locationaddresses of the website-providing user withinregistered users in the virtual community;

a contents database for storing contents data constituting the virtual community; and

a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website set up by a registered second user, a community tag to the website-providing user, wherein the community tag causes a virtual tag community to be mounted on a website provided by the website-providing user whenthat is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website provided by the website-providing user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing user shows a part of a whole map

of the virtual community, wherein the part of the whole map corresponds~~is only a portion of~~

~~the virtual community corresponding~~ to the virtual community address of the website-

providing~~second registered~~ user.

2. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 1~~as~~

~~defined in Claim 1~~, wherein,

the user management information database stores information concerning a website-

providing user~~an~~ avatar that is a character representing the website-providing user~~acting for~~

~~each user in the virtual tag community~~, and

the control means performs control to show a website-accessing user~~the~~ avatar that is

a character representing the website-accessing user when the website-accessing user

accesses~~acting for a fourth user in the virtual tag community, who is accessing~~ the website

provided by the website-providing user~~mounting the virtual tag community of the virtual~~

~~community~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 2~~as~~

~~defined in Claim 2~~, wherein, when the website-accessing user is~~a fifth user who has~~ not

logged into the virtual community ~~accesses the website mounting the virtual tag community~~,

the website-accessing user avatar shown by the control means~~performs control to show a~~

~~specific character that~~ indicates that the website-accessing~~fifth~~ user is not in a logged-in state

~~in the virtual tag community~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The community providing server according to claim 1 ~~as defined in Claim 1~~, wherein,

the user management information database stores a web~~an~~ address of the website provided by the website-providing user~~of the third user owning the website mounting the virtual tag community among the registered users~~, and

the control means provides ~~information of~~the web address of the website provided by the website-providing user to the website-accessing~~for a fourth~~ user via the virtual tag community.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A virtual community system providing a virtual community for one or more website-accessing users~~a first user~~, the system comprising:

(a) a virtual community providing server;

(b) one or more~~a~~ user terminals for use by the one or more website-accessing users~~terminal~~; and

(c) a user website server,

wherein the virtual community providing server, the one or more user terminals~~terminal~~, and the user website server are connected to each other via a network, and

wherein the community providing server comprises

i. a user management information database for storing information concerning a website-providing user, wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-

accessing usersregistered users who hasare registered with the virtual community, andwherein the stored information includes a virtual community address indicating a location of the website-providing user withinaddresses of the registered users in the virtual community;

 ii. a contents database for storing contents data constituting the virtual community; and

 iii. a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a community tag to the website-providing user, wherein the community tag causes a virtual tag community to be mounted on a website providedset up by the website-providinga registered second user, a community tag that is to be when inserted in HTML data constituting the website provided by the website-providing user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website provided by the website-providing user shows a part of a whole mapis only a portion of the virtual community, wherein the part of the whole map corresponds-corresponding to the virtual community address of the website-providingsecond registered user, and wherein

 the user website server comprises

 i. storage for saving HTML data into which the community tag is inserted.

8. (Currently Amended) A virtual community providing method for providing a virtual community for one or more website-accessing users having one or morea first user who has a user terminalsterminal connected to a community providing server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) issuing a community tag, by the community providing server, <u>to a website-</u>providing~~for a second~~ user, <u>wherein the website-providing user is one of the website-</u><u>accessing users</u> who accesses the community providing server and registers with the virtual community in order to mount a virtual tag community on a website <u>provided</u>~~set-up~~ by <u>the</u> <u>website-providing</u>~~a registered third~~ user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website <u>provided by the website-providing user shows a part of a whole map</u>~~is only a portion~~ of the virtual community<u>, wherein the part of the whole map corresponds to a virtual</u> <u>community</u>~~corresponding to the~~address of the website-providing~~a third registered~~ user; and

(b) sending data <u>including</u>~~of~~ contents of the virtual community, by the community providing server, to the user terminal <u>of the website-accessing user when the user terminal of</u> <u>the website-accessing user</u>~~that~~ accesses the website of the <u>website-providing</u>~~registered third~~ user and<u>, thereafter,</u> ~~that also~~accesses the community providing server <u>in correspondence to</u> <u>content of</u>~~after analyzing~~ the virtual community tag.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The community providing server <u>according to claim 1</u>~~as~~ ~~defined in Claim 1~~, wherein,

<u>there are a plurality of website-providing users,</u>

the user management information database stores information concerning <u>avatars that</u> <u>are respectively characters representing the website-providing users</u>~~an avatar that is a~~ ~~character acting for each user in the virtual tag community~~, and

the control means performs control to show <u>a first avatar representing a first one of</u>

<u>the website-providing users when the first website-providing user accesses a</u>~~the avatar acting~~

~~for a user in the virtual tag community who is accessing~~ the website <u>provided by a second</u>

<u>one of the website-providing users</u>~~mounting the virtual tag community~~.

11. (Currently Amended) <u>The</u>~~A~~ virtual community system according to claim 7, wherein

there are a plurality of website-accessing users and a plurality of user terminals:

a first one of the website-accessing users uses~~the user terminal is~~ a first <u>one of the</u>

user <u>terminals</u>~~terminal used by the first user~~ to access the virtual tag community mounted on

the website <u>provided by the website-providing</u>~~used by the registered second~~ user<u>;</u>~~;~~ and

the website-providing~~the virtual community system further comprises at least one~~

~~second user terminal connected to the virtual community providing server, the first user~~

~~terminal and the user website server via the network, wherein the registered second~~ user uses

<u>a</u>~~the~~ second <u>one of the</u> user <u>terminals</u>~~terminal~~ to access the virtual tag community mounted on

the website <u>provided by the website-providing</u>~~used by the registered second~~ user.

12. (Currently Amended) <u>The</u>~~A~~ virtual community system according to claim 11,

wherein the first <u>website-accessing</u> user accesses the virtual tag community mounted on the

website <u>provided</u>~~used~~ by the <u>website-providing</u>~~registered second~~ user without having to

<u>visit</u>~~access~~ another website to use content of the virtual community.